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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
10 February 1961

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Impending Parliamentary and Local Elections  
in Rumania, 5 March 1961

1. Offices to be filled: 465 delegates to the Grand National Assembly are to be elected from a single slate on the basis of one for every 40,000 inhabitants; representatives will be chosen to 16 regional councils, as well as to the Bucharest and Constanta councils. At the local level, 146 county and approximately 4,300 town and commune people's councils will be elected. About 137,800 representatives were chosen in the last nationwide elections in February 1957, and roughly the same number can be expected to be elected this time.

2. Party participation: Local councils of the People's Democratic Front, composed of the representatives of the Workers' (Communist) party, trade unions, and the mass organizations, nominate candidates who will run on a single slate sponsored by the front. As the leaders of all organizations making up the front are also high in the party apparatus, the party is in virtual control of the single-slate nominations and therefore the results.

3. Procedures:

a. On 24 December, Rumanian party First Secretary Gheorghiu-Dej addressed a constituent meeting of the Central Council of the Popular National Front and, in his capacity as chairman, named a Secretariat and called for the formation

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of regional and local councils of the front to nominate candidates for the coming elections. The establishment of regional councils was completed by 3 January. Following instructions from the central council of the front, these regional and local councils must nominate candidates one month before the coming elections and organize the electoral campaign.

b. The Presidium of the incumbent National Assembly on 4 January appointed a central electoral commission, consisting of representatives of cultural, scientific, and mass organizations and headed by Academician and former Deputy Premier Atanase Joja. The commission will appoint local boards to supervise the voting and certify the results. Lists of electoral precincts and their boundaries, revised according to the administrative territorial reorganization of 24 December, have been published.

c. Local people's councils will register the eligible voters (aged 18 or over). To ensure a heavy turnout the councils will register any citizen in their area on the day of election, regardless of residence.

d. The two months preceding the elections are set aside for intensive political and ideological activity, with the regime using every medium of propaganda to publicize the democratic election process, to emphasize the unity of the electorate, and to glorify the "achievements of socialism" and of the party. The campaign started on 6 January with a mass meeting of the youth organization, which discussed its role in the campaign, and continued with meetings of other mass organizations as well as local sections and groups.


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4. Significant features:

a. In the 1957 elections, 11,540,401 voters, or 99 percent of the eligible electorate, went to the polls and elected 441 deputies to the National Assembly. According to official statistics, 99 percent of those who voted endorsed the front candidates. It is unlikely that the results of this year's election will be any different. Its significance lies rather in the internal propaganda developed during the campaign, the issues which may be emphasized, and the response--if articulate--evoked from the populace.

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